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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/666,200	09/18/2003	Hun Choi	091781.00004	7823

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EXAMINER

BEAUCHAINE, MARK J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3653

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/30/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/666,200

Applicant(s)

CHOI, HUN

Examiner

Mark J. Beauchaine

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 December 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 17-20 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 and 21-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The term "easily" (claim 1, line 13; and claim 9, line 12) is ambiguous. Said term is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term "easily" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. "Easily" as compared to what?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 9, 11, 13, 15, 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patent Number US 7,048,623 B2 by Perkitny ("Perkitny") in view of Patent Number 3,002,601 by Reis ("Reis") in view of Patent Number 3,658,394 by Gutner ("Gutner") in view of Patent Number US 6,371,845 B1 by Ishida ("Ishida"). The

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coin sorting apparatus disclosed by Perkitny comprises coin sorting means 110 (see Figure 4) for sorting coins according to size of the coins, guide 64 for transferring the coins sorted by the coin sorting means to a predetermined location (see Figure 1C), coin receiving tube 36 disposed on an end portion of the guide (see Figure 1A) for receiving the coins transferred from the guide, and receiving container 32 for receiving the coin receiving tube. Perkitny further discloses motor 44 driving a rotational shaft that is coupled to carrier container 62 provided with carrier holes, and separation member 60.

Perkitny fails to disclose a first sensing means. Reis teaches a coin sorting apparatus comprising first sensing means 18 formed to be offset from the center of guide 16 (see Figure 2) for the purpose of counting the number of coins being sorted (see column 2, lines 57-60). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the first sensing means of Reis into the coin counting apparatus of Perkitny for the purpose of counting the number of coins being sorted.

Perkitny fails to disclose a sliding projection/sliding member configuration. Gutner teaches an apparatus comprising container 10 provided at a lower end with sliding projection 15 and sliding member 13 provided with sliding groove 17 (Figures 1 and 4) for the purpose of permitting said container to move laterally into and out of the apparatus. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the projection/member configuration of Gutner into

the apparatus of Perkitny for the purpose of permitting said container to move laterally into and out of the apparatus.

Perkitny fails to disclose a microcomputer. The coin sorting apparatus disclosed by Ishida comprises microcomputer 11 for controlling the coin sorting apparatus in accordance with a signal from first sensing means 18 (see Figure 1) for the purpose of monitoring the number of coins counted by the apparatus. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the microcomputer of Ishida into the coin sorting apparatus of Perkitny for the purpose of monitoring the number of coins counted by the apparatus.

Perkitney fails to disclose a control/display part. Reis teaches control/display part 54 for controlling and displaying an operation state of the coin sorting means for the purpose of notifying an operator of the apparatus condition. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the control/display part of Reis into the coin counting apparatus of Perkitny for the purpose of notifying an operator of the apparatus condition.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perkitny in view of Reis in view of Gutner in view of Ishida in as applied to claim 9 above, in further view of Patent Number 6,021,883 by Casanova et al ("Casanova").

Perkitny/Reis/Gutner/Ishida fails to disclose a speaker. Casanova teaches a coin processing apparatus incorporating a speaker (column 4, line 67) for making a predetermined sound according to an operation state of the coin sorting means for the

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purpose of notifying a user of an operating condition of the apparatus. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the speaker of Casanova into the apparatus of Perkitny/Reis/Gutner/Ishida for the purpose of notifying a user of an operating condition of the apparatus.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perkitny/Reis/Gutner/Ishida as applied to claim 9 above, and further in view of Patent Number 5,989,118 by Chiba et al ("Chiba"). Perkitny/Reis/Gutner/Ishida fails to disclose an optical sensor. Chiba teaches a coin counting apparatus comprising optical sensor for counting the number of coins being sorted for the purpose of notifying and operator of a total count of coins. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the sensor of Chiba into the apparatus of Perkitny/Reis/Gutner/Ishida for the purpose of notifying an operator of a total count of coins.

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perkitny in view of Ishida. The coin sorting apparatus disclosed by Perkitny comprises coin sorting means 110 (see Figure 4) for sorting coins according to size of the coins, guide 64 for transferring the coins sorted by the coin sorting means to a predetermined location (see Figure 1C), coin receiving tube 36 disposed on an end portion of the guide (see Figure 1A) for receiving the coins transferred from the guide, and receiving container 32 for receiving the coin receiving tube.

Perkitny fails to disclose a sensing means/microcomputer configuration. Ishida teaches sensing means 43-1, 43-2, 43-3 for detecting if coin receiving tubes 41-1 through 41-5 are positioned on a location for appropriately receiving coins by sensing a displacement of coin receiving container 4, and microcomputer 11 for controlling the coin sorting apparatus in accordance with a signal from said sensing means, for the purpose of ensuring that coins are properly processed. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the sensing means/microcomputer configuration of Ishida into the apparatus of Perkitny for the purpose of ensuring that coins are properly processed.

Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perkitny in view of Ishida as applied to claim 21 above, and further in view of Reis.

Perkitny/Ishida fails to disclose a second sensing means/display configuration.

Reis teaches a coin counting and sorting apparatus comprising sensing means 18, 19 and 20 for counting the number of coins being sorted by said apparatus, and display device 31, 32 and 33 for displaying the number of sorted coins in accordance with a signal detected by said sensing means, for the purpose of notifying an operator of the amount of sorted coin processed by the apparatus. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the sensing means/display configuration of Reis into the apparatus of Peritny/Ishida for the purpose of notifying an operator of the amount of sorted coin processed by the apparatus.

Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perkitny in view of Ishida. The coin sorting apparatus disclosed by Perkitny comprises coin sorting means 110 (see Figure 4) for sorting coins according to size of the coins, coin receiving tube 36, and receiving container 32 for receiving the coin receiving tube. Perkitny further discloses user interface 17 for controlling the coin sorting apparatus.

Perkitny fails to disclose a sensing means/microcomputer configuration. Ishida teaches first sensing means 18 for counting the number of coins processed by the apparatus, second sensing means 43-1, 43-2, 43-3 for detecting if coin receiving tubes 41-1 through 41-5 are positioned on a location for appropriately receiving coins by sensing a displacement of coin receiving container 4, and microcomputer 11 for controlling the coin sorting apparatus in accordance with a signal from said first and second sensing means, for the purpose of ensuring that coins are properly processed. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the sensing means/microcomputer configuration of Ishida into the apparatus of Perkitny for the purpose of ensuring that coins are properly processed.

Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perkitny in view of Ishida in as applied to claim 23 above, in further view of Casanova. Perkitny/Ishida fails to disclose a speaker. Casanova teaches a coin processing apparatus incorporating a speaker (column 4, line 67) for making a predetermined sound according to an operation state of the coin sorting means for the purpose of

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notifying a user of an operating condition of the apparatus. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the speaker of Casanova into the apparatus of Perkitny/Ishida for the purpose of notifying a user of an operating condition of the apparatus.

Claims 25-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perkitny in view of Ishida as applied to claim 23 above, and further in view of Reis. Perkitney fails to disclose a control/display part. Reis teaches control/display part 54 having a plurality of buttons and a display part for controlling and displaying an operation state of the coin sorting means for the purpose of notifying an operator of the apparatus condition. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the control/display part of Reis into the coin counting apparatus of Perkitny/Ishida for the purpose of notifying an operator of the apparatus condition.

Claims 31 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patent Number US 6,772,870 B2 by Sugai et al ("Sugai") in view of Ishida. The coin processing apparatus disclosed by Sugai is operated by separating coins by size (via token discerner 31), detecting the number of sorted coins (via token discerner 31), stopping an operation of coin sorting when it is detected that a predetermined number of coins having a predetermined size is sorted (column 4, lines 23-32) and displaying an image to let the user identify a stop operation (via display 9). Sugai fails to disclose the

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step of operating again the coin sorting step when coin receiving means is displaced to a predetermined position. Ishida teaches the operation of a coin sorting apparatus once coin receiving means 4 is displaced to a predetermined location attached to apparatus 1 for the purpose of continuing the sorting process. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporating the counting restart operation of Ishida into the operation of Sugai for the purpose of continuing the coin sorting process.

Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugai in view of Ishida as applied to claim 31 above, and further in view of Patent Number US 6,484,863 B1 by Molbak ("Molbak"). Sugai fails to disclose the stopping of the sorting operation when the number of coins being sorted is not increased for a predetermined time. Molbak teaches a sorting operation that stops a coin sorting operation after no coin is detected for a predetermined time (column 19, lines 22-24) for the purpose of automatically stopping the apparatus. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the sorting stop operation of Molbak into the sorting operation of Sugai for the purpose of automatically stopping the apparatus.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 17-20 are allowed. Claims 1-8 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action. Claim 14 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark J. Beauchaine whose telephone number is (571)272-6934. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM through 5:00PM Mondays through Thursdays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick H. Mackey can be reached on (571)272-6916. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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